In UP (East) Circle, the plan is for providing 68,000 connections on land lines and 70,000 connections on WLL in the rural areas.

23 persons have applied for telephone connections in village Anjani, district Mainpuri. This village is at a distance of about 2 kms. from Shringarpur, located in district Mainpuri. Village Anjani falls in the local area of Shringarpur, where a 256P CDOT telephone exchange has been planned during the year 2001-2002. Telephone connections to the wait listed applicants of village Anjani will be provided by March, 2002.

Goa Airport

*326. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the plan to make the airport at Goa usable for 24 hours; and

(b) by when it is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Goa Airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and is controlled by the Indian Navy. Airports Authority of India (AAI) only maintains a Civil Enclave at Goa. As Goa is an important tourist destination of the country, it was decided to have this airport available for civil / charter flights round the clock. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Airports Authority of India and Indian Navy on 9.3.2000, to make this airport operational for 24 hours. Indian Navy was to procure all equipment for this purpose and AAI was to transfer Rs. 205.72 lakhs to Indian Navy on request for this purpose. Indian Navy was also required to provide necessary manpower for 24 hours operation. AAI has already budgeted the amount. Indian Navy is obtaining necessary approvals for 110 additional staff required for this purpose.

Presently Goa airport operates from sunrise to sunset, except the slot from 0830 hours to 1300 hours on Mondays to Fridays which is reserved for military flying. In addition, chartered tourist flights were also permitted to operate between 0830 hours to 1300 hours on Fridays during the tourist season.